

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART  
CLEVELAND 6. OHIO  
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FOR RELEASE

Miss Bersick,  
Plain Dealer  
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This scene of the Adoration was done almost fifteen hundred years after the death of Christ by Giovanni di Paolo, an Italian artist from Siena. Gothic in spirit with fairy tale qualities, it depicts three richly adorned Magi gathered to honor the Christ child who is seated on the Madonna's knee. The Magi symbolize the unfolding of Christianity to all lands and all peoples in all ages.

A golden radiance, symbolic of Divinity, glows at the upper left of the grotto. A dove, representative of the Holy Spirit, hovers above the crowd at the right of the grotto.

Each animal in the picture has significance. The ass and ox indicate that even the most humble creatures are recognized by God; the horses and leopards are symbols of the lust and sin that required God's Incarnation for redemption; the ape depicts man's slothful soul while the dog signifies fidelity. The swallows in the background symbolize the Resurrection - since it was thought that they hibernated in the mud in wintertime and with their advent in spring were reborn from winter's deathlike state.

The ADORATION OF THE MAGI is now on display in Gallery three of the Museum.